WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An integrated control system for control of distributed home entertainment electronic devices, comprising:

a controller for managing the operation of said integrated control system;

a translator coupled to said controller for translating management instructions into management messages using a preferred communications protocol;

a device database coupled to said controller for storing device information;

at least one communications interface coupled to said controller for transmitting and receiving management messages to distributed home entertainment electronic devices.

2. The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein said at least one communications interface includes a wireless interface.

3. The integrated control system of claim 2, wherein said at least one communications interface includes an IEEE 802.11(b) interface.

4. The integrated control system of claim 2, wherein said at least one communications interface includes an IEEE 802.11(e) interface.

5. The integrated control system of claim 2, wherein said at least one communications inferface includes an IEEE 802.15.3a interface.

6. The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein said at least one communications interface includes a wireline interface.

7. The integrated control system of claim 6, wherein said at least one communications interface includes a powerline interface.

8. The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein said at least one communications interface includes both a wireline and a wireless interface.

9. A method to control distributed home entertainment electronic devices, comprising:

(a) receiving a remote control signal;

(b) interpretting said remote control signal;

(c) gathering device information for devices impacted by said remote control signal;

(d) translating said remote control signal into a management command;

(e) encoding a management message based on the management command; and

(f) transmitting said management message.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said device information includes a type of communication protocol supported by a device.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein said device information includes a unique identifier for a device that can be used to route management messages.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein step (e) includes encoding a management message using a wireless protocol.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said wireless protocol is IEEE 802.11(b).

14. The method of claim 11, wherein said wireless protocol is IEEE 802.11(e).

15. The method of claim 11, wherein said wireless protocol is IEEE 802.15.3a.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein said wireless protocol is Bluetooth.

17. A method to provide hierarchical control of distributed home entertainment electronic devices, comprising:

(a) receiving a remote control signal;

(b) interpreting said remote control signal;

(c) gathering device configuration information for devices that may be impacted by said remote control signal;

(d) determining management command based on said remote control signal and said device configuration information;

(e) encoding a management message based on said management command; and

(f) transmitting said management message.

18. Within a home entertainment system containing a television and other distributed electronic devices, a method of automatically configuring the distributed electronic devices upon a change in a video input signal; comprising

(a) determining a change in a video input signal;

(b) analyzing the characteristics of the video input signal;

(c) determining whether settings of the distributed electronic device should be changed;

(d) when settings should be changed, generating management messages for each device to be changed; and

(e) transmitting said management messages.

19. A method for distributing video signals from a first electronic device receiving multiple video streams to a second electronic device, comprising:

(a) receiving a video channel request;

(b) encoding a video message that contains video from the requested video channel;

(c) transmitting the encoded video message from the first electronic device to the second electronic device.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said first electronic device is a cable set top box.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein step (b) comprises encoding a video message using IEEE 802.11(b) protocol.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein step (b) comprises encoding a video message using IEEE 802.11(e) protocol.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein step (b) comprises encoding a video message using IEEE 802.15.3a protocol.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein step (b) comprises encoding a video message using Bluetooth.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein step (b) comprises encoding a video message using a powerline protocol.

26. The method of claim 19, wherein step (b) comprises encoding a video message using an Ethernet protocol.

27. A legacy television dongle, comprising:

a wireless interface for receiving digital video signals;

a UHF/VHF interface for transmitting analog video signals to a legacy television;

a remote interface for receiving user commands;

and

a video transcoder coupled to said digital video interface, said UHF/VHF interface and said remote interface for converting video signals between different formats.

28. The legacy television dongle of claim 27, wherein said wireless interface is an IEEE 802.11(b) interface.

29. The legacy television dongle of claim 27, wherein said wireless interface is an IEEE 802.11(e) interface.

30. The legacy television dongle of claim 27, wherein said wireless interface is an IEEE 802.15.3a interface.

31. The legacy television dongle of claim 27, wherein said wireless interface is a Bluetooth interface.

32. The legacy television dongle of claim 27, wherein said video transcoder receives said digital video signals from said wireless interface and translates said digital video signals into analog video signals.

33. The legacy television dongle of claim 27, wherein said wireless interface receives said user commands from said remote interface and translates said user commands into management messages using a wireless protocol.

34. The legacy television dongle of claim 27, wherein said legacy television dongle comprises a mechanical mount for affixing said legacy television dongle to a UHF/VHF antenna connector on a legacy television.

35. A legacy television dongle, comprising:

a wireless interface for receiving digital video signals;

a UHF/VHF interface for transmitting analog video signals to a legacy television;

a remote interface for receiving user commands;

and

a video transcoder coupled to said digital video interface, said UHF/VHF interface and said remote interface;

a control signal transcoder coupled to said remote interface and said wireless interface; and

a control signal database coupled to said control signal transcoder.

36. A method of receiving digital video signals on a legacy analog television using a legacy television dongle, comprising:

(a) receiving a digital wireless video signal by the wireless legacy television dongle;

(b) decoding the digital wireless video signal;

(c) encoding an analog video signal from the digital wireless video signal; and

(d) transmitting the analog video signal from the wireless legacy television dongle to the legacy analog television using a UHF/VHF interface.